

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 00818 012042Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 /137 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4401
INFO USUN NEW YORK 0751

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0818

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS PLOS, PINR (DE LA GUARDIA, ERNESTO) AR
SUBJECT ARGENTINE DELEDATE TO LOS TALKS

REF: STATE 012946

1. EMBASSY OFFICER PRESENTED ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR
ERNESTO DE LA GUARDIA WITH RECENT WIRELESS FILE
REPORTS ON US LOS POLICY. THE AMBASSADORS
REACTION WAS GUARDED: HE APPEARED SKEPTICAL THAT
THE US GO AHEAD FOR UNILATERAL LEGISLATION ON
SEABED MINING WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT TREATY
NEGOTIATIONS, IMPLYING THAT THE MOVE WAS TO PUT ADDED
PRESSURE ON DELEGATES TO REACH A SOLUTION IN THE UPCOMING
LOS SESSION. HE AGREED THAT THE UPCOMING
SESSION WAS CRITICAL AND THAT FAILURE TO COME UP
WITH AN ACCEPTABLE TEXT WOULD SEVERELY SET BACK
NEGOTIATIONS AND PERHAPS MARK THE END OF THE
PRESENT EFFORT. WITHOUT ELABORATING, DE LA GUARDIA
SAID THAT ARGENTINAS POSITION WAS NO CONTENTIOUS BUT FIRM,
AND THAT THE PROBLEM AT HAND WAS TO GET CONCESSIONS FROM THOSE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 00818 012042Z

CONTRIES WITH THE MOST EXTREME POSITIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE
DIFFERENCES DID NOT RUN ALONG IDEOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL LINES,
REFLECTING INSTEAD ECONOMIC AND EQUAL PROTECTION CONCERNS. THE
AMBASSADOR INTIMATED THAT US TECHNOLOGICAL MIGHT AND
HEADSTART IN SEABED MINING GIVE THE US PREPONDERANT INFLUENCE
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER OFFICIAL ALBERTO DAVEREDE, WHO HAS TWO YEARS EXPERIENCE WORKING ON LOS MATTERS, LATER TOLD EMBOFF PRIVATELY THAT AMBASSADOR DE LA GUARDIA WAS COMING BACK IN LOS MATTERS COLD AFTER HAVING DIRECTED THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION ON THE BEAGLE CHANNEL ARBITRATION CASE IN GENEVA UNTIL JUST RECENTLY. (THE BEAGLE CHANNEL ARRIR HAVING TURNED OUT BADLY FOR ARGENTINA, INVOLVED ARGENTINE DIPLOMATS ARE CURRENTLY TRYING TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES FROM THAT EVEN WITH AS LITTLE BREAKAGE TO THEIR CAREERS AS POSSIBLE.) DAVEREDE SUGGESTED DE LA GUARDIAS PRESENT PESSISM MAY EMANATE FROM THE UNFORTUNATE BEAGLE CHANNEL BUSINESS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT EXCEPTING HIMSELF, THE ARGENTINE LOS TEAM IS ENTIRELY NEW.

3. DE LA GUARDIA HAD WORKED ON LOS AFFAIRS PRIOR TO HIS ARBITRATION CASE ASSIGNMENT TO GENEVA IN 1976 AND SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING MANY OLD FRIENDS IN THE UPCOMING CONFERENCE. HE LEAVES FOR NEW YORK TODAY FEBRUARY 1 TO ATTEND A PRE SESSION MEETING OF COASTAL STATES IN ADVANCE OF THE FEBRUARY 6 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING. DE LA GUARDIA, AGE 52, IS A LAWYER AND CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO HAS SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UK (1960-1962), CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1964-1966) AND YUGOSLAVIA (1971-1975). HE IS A SPECIALIST AND PROFESSOR IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HAS SERVED IN SEVERAL ARGENTINE DELEGATIONS TO THE US, INCLUDING AS ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT MISSION IN 1970. DE LA GUARDIA IS MARRIED TO A LAWYER, LILLIAN BURGOS, AND HAS ONE SON. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 00818 012042Z

CASTRO

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